



DAVID SANDERS, PH.D.
Director

County of Los Angeles DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

425 Shatto Place, Los Angeles, California 90020
(213) 351-5602

April 29, 2003

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**REQUEST TO APPROVE AMENDMENT NUMBER ONE TO EXTEND GROUP HOME
FOSTER CARE SERVICES WITH RESEARCH AND TREATMENT INSTITUTE, INC.
FOR ONE ADDITIONAL YEAR
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

**JOINT RECOMMENDATION WITH THE CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER THAT YOUR
BOARD:**

1. Approve and instruct the Chair to sign the attached Amendment Number One (Attachment A) with Research and Treatment Institute, Inc., (RTI) to extend the Agreement (number 73970) for one additional year beginning May 1, 2003, through April 30, 2004 for provision of foster care services in a group home setting for Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Probation Department children. There is no contract maximum since these are foster care costs; RTI is reimbursed for each DCFS and Probation child placed at the facility based on the rate classification level (RCL) determined by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). Funding for foster care payments is included in the DCFS Assistance Payments Budget. Approximately 61% of foster care costs are financed using Federal and State revenue; the remaining 39% is net County cost/realignment revenue. There will be no net County cost to the Probation Department.
2. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS and the Chief Probation Officer to execute an amendment to extend the agreement for six additional months, if necessary, after County Counsel and Chief Administrative Office (CAO) approval; and instruct the Director of DCFS to notify your Board and the CAO in writing within 10 workdays of execution.

Board of Supervisors

GLORIA MOLINA

First District

YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE

Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

Third District

DON KNABE

Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

Fifth District

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of the recommended action is to extend the term of the current Group Home Foster Care Services Agreement with RTI for one additional year. The recommended action will allow DCFS and Probation to continue to use group home foster care services provided by RTI, as well as place RTI on a contract schedule parallel to that of the existing group home foster care providers.

DCFS and Probation utilize RTI for the placement of children who are in need of a higher level of care than that which can be provided in family type settings. RTI provides intensive treatment, educational, social and psychological programs, as well as a nurturing environment.

The children placed with RTI are seriously disturbed children in the foster care system. These children, due to their emotional instability, are at high-risk of danger to themselves or others. Most of the children placed with RTI have had numerous prior placements with other group homes, foster care facilities, and MacLaren Children's Center. RTI provides these children with the highest level of care and protection, as well as the long-term stability that is essential to the children's development and well-being.

The Department was unable to submit this Board letter in sufficient time to allow your Board three continuances prior to the expiration of the existing contract because the Department required additional time to gather information regarding the status of RTI's compliance with their plan of corrective action, as well as coordinating clearances between County Departments.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions are consistent with the principles of the Countywide Strategic Plan Goal #5 - Children and Families' Well-Being. The recommended action will ensure availability of placements capable of providing a high level of care for seriously disturbed children resulting in social and emotional well being in a safe environment.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The cost of this Amendment (including both DCFS and Probation costs) will be financed through DCFS' Assistance Payments Budget with approximately 61% Federal and State revenue and 39% net County cost/realignment revenue. There will be no net County cost to the Probation Department.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

On April 3, 2001, your Board adopted the Group Home Foster Care Form Agreement currently in effect with numerous providers, of which RTI was one. These Agreements are for one year, effective May 1, 2001 through April 30, 2002, with two (2) one-year options to renew.

DCFS and Probation found it in the best interest of the County to allow the Group Home Foster Care Agreement with RTI to expire on April 30, 2002 due to contractual compliance difficulties with the Department of Mental Health (DMH). The contractual issues included failure to comply with several program requirements and billing errors.

Subsequently on April 30, 2002, your Board approved the month-to-month Group Home Foster Care Services Agreement currently in effect with RTI which will expire on April 30, 2003.

DCFS in consultation with DMH, determined that the contractual issues between RTI and DMH have been resolved, and therefore, DCFS is recommending extending the Agreement on a year's basis rather than on a month-to-month basis. Delegated authority to extend the contract six additional months, if necessary, is requested.

RTI is classified as an RCL 14 service provider (the highest level possible) by CDSS, Community Care Licensing and will be paid at the RCL 14 rate which is \$6,371 per month per child. RTI is also certified by DMH.

This Amendment includes the County's current language for Consideration of Hiring GAIN/GROW Participants, Compliance with Jury Service Program, Fixed Assets, Child Abuse Prevention Reporting, and Mandatory Requirement to Register on County's WebVen provisions.

RTI is in compliance with all Board, CAO, and County Counsel requirements.

This Board Letter has been reviewed by County Counsel and approved by the CAO. The Amendment has been approved as to form by County Counsel.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

No additional contracting process was required for this Amendment. DCFS has evaluated and determined that the Living Wage Ordinance Program (County Code Chapter 2.201) does not apply.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES

RTI provides treatment, care and protection to seriously disturbed children. The services provided by RTI are essential to the children's development and well-being. Without the recommended Amendment, children currently placed with RTI will have to be relocated.

CONCLUSION

Upon approval and execution by the Board of Supervisors, it is requested that the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board send one (1) copy of the adopted Board Letter and Amendment Number One to:

1. Department of Children and Family Services
Contracts Administration
Attn: Contracts Manager
425 Shatto Place, Room 205
Los Angeles, CA 90020
2. Probation Department
Contract and Grants Management Division
Attn: Yolanda Young, Director
9150 East Imperial Hwy., Room A-66
Downey, CA 90242

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
April 29, 2003
Page 5

3. Research and Treatment Institute, Inc.
Attn: Dr. Don Lomas, Interim Director
937 West Foothill Blvd. Suite D
Claremont, CA 91711
4. Office of the County Counsel
Attn: Rose Belda, Principal Deputy County Counsel
201 Centre Plaza Drive, Ground Floor
Monterey Park, CA 91754

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID SANDERS, PH.D., Director
Department of Children
and Family Services

RICHARD SHUMSKY
Chief Probation Officer
Probation Department

DS:RS:WC:EO

Attachment

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel